

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A dishwasher comprising:
 - a washing chamber having a door movable from an open position permitting the loading of the washing chamber, through a close position visually covering the washing chamber, to a seal position sealing water within the washing chamber by the compression of a gasket;
 - a timer/controller generating an electric signal indicating a time for sealing the door for washing;
 - and an electric actuator responding to the electric signal to move the door from the close position to the seal position to compress the gasket through a force applied to the door by the electric actuator; wherein the electric actuator connects to the door through a releasable latch allowing the electric actuator to be engaged and disengaged from the door;
 - at least one switch providing a signal confirming engagement of the electric actuator and door, the switch communicating with the timer controller to prevent washing prior to the occurrence of this confirming signal;
 - and a force sensor sensing a pre-determined force on the electric actuator resisting closure of the door by the electric actuator caused by an obstruction between the door and the washing chamber to controllably stop closure of the door before the seal position.
2. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 wherein the close position provides a space between the washing chamber and the door allowing venting of the washing chamber.
3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The dishwasher of claim 1 wherein the latch includes a manual operator releasing a connection to the electronic actuator holding the door in the seal position.

5. (original) The dishwasher of claim 3 wherein the latch includes a switch signaling that the latch has released the door.

6. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 including a detent providing a force releasably holding the door at the close position.

7. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 including a sensor sensing the door in the close position to allow the electric actuator to move the door from the close position to the seal position.

8. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 wherein the electric actuator is mounted in the door to releasably engage structure of the washing chamber to move the door between the close position and the seal position.

9. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 wherein the electric actuator is mounted on the washing chamber to releasably engage structure of the door to move the door between the close position and the seal position.

10. (original) The dishwasher of claim 1 including a sensor sensing an opening force on the door to cause the electric actuator to move the door from the seal position toward the open position.

11. (canceled)

12-19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A dishwasher comprising:

a washing chamber having a door movable from an open position permitting the loading of the washing chamber to a seal position sealing water within the washing chamber;

a timer/controller controlling the washing of dishes within the washing chamber and providing a first signal during a washing period and a separate drying signal during a drying period different from the washing period during which the dishes dry after washing; and

an electric door actuator communicating with the timer/controller to respond to a the first signal from the timer/controller to automatically close the door at the washing period to seal water within the washing chamber and to automatically open the door for venting of water vapor from within the washing chamber during the drying period in response to the drying signal;

further providing a user control permitting opening of the door during the washing period; and

further including a sensor providing a signal indicating that the door is closed, and wherein the timer/controller communicates with the electric actuator to delay sealing of the door after the door is opened during the washing cycle to prevent surge pressure build up from heating of the newly introduced cold air.

21-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) The dishwasher of claim ~~21~~ 20 further including a mechanical latch releasing a connection by the electric actuator holding the door in the seal position.

24. (cancelled)

25. (currently amended) The dishwasher of claim ~~21~~ 20 further including a door

closed sensor providing a signal indicating that the door is in the close position.

26. (currently amended) [The dishwasher of claim 1] A dishwasher comprising:
a washing chamber having a door movable from an open position permitting the
loading of the washing chamber to a seal position sealing water within the washing
chamber;

a timer/controller controlling the washing of dishes within the washing chamber
and providing a first signal during a washing period and a separate drying signal during a
drying period different from the washing period during which the dishes dry after
washing; and

an electric door actuator communicating with the timer/controller to respond to a
the first signal from the timer/controller to automatically close the door at the washing
period to seal water within the washing chamber and to automatically open the door for
venting of water vapor from within the washing chamber during the drying period in
response to the drying signal;

including a force sensor sensing a force resisting closure of the door as the door is
being automatically closed to cause the electric actuator to move the door away from the
seal position toward the open position.

27. (currently amended) The dishwasher of claim ~~24~~ 20 wherein the user control
is a force sensor sensing an opening force applied to the door and communicating with
the electric actuator to cause an opening of the door.

28. (cancelled)

29. (new) The dishwasher of claim 1 wherein the switch providing a signal
confirming engagement of the electric actuator and door provides the signal before the
door is in the seal position sealing water within the washing chamber.